

# Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

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## Editorial

### "Some Significant Tendencies of the Times"

The above is the title of the fourth of the series of booklets comprising the Brethren Library. The author of the booklet is brother C. F. Yoder whose writing and whose work are well known thru-out the brotherhood. The booklet has been issued recently and we herewith submit a review of it to the readers of the EVANGELIST.

If you have not been thrilled with the sentiment that

"We are living, we are dwelling in a grand and awful time,  
In an age on ages telling, to be living is sublime."

we feel that the reading of this little book will inspire you to sing these lines with meaning. First of all, we are delighted with it because every line breathes the spirit of an optimist. There is not a page, but beams with hope and encouragement. At the outset, Brother Yoder reminds the reader of the fact that every age has conceived itself greater than all that precede it and proceeds to show us that this is true, that there is a continual progress in the history of the world. This thought is developed beautifully, the truth of the triumphant good being unfolded all the while. From this portion we quote the following:

"If the iniquities of the parents are visited upon the children, so also are their virtues, and as truth is inherently mightier than error and goodness stronger than evil, the message of human experience is one of hope and not of despair. If this were a world of chance conclusions would be impossible. But this is a world of order and over the face of seeming chaos moves the Spirit of God. The end is the kingdom of God. And it is because we are dealing with life that we may come to this discussion with some degree of assurance. For life has its laws, and nations have their metes and bounds, and back of all is the supreme Cause who acts ever in harmony with his eternal attributes. Men study physical nature and discover ways of acting upon which they may absolutely depend. But if God is present in the gravitation which holds the stars in place, and in the sunbeam which paints the flowers their varied hues, and in the hand which provides for the ravens their food, how much more is he in human life unfolding and developing and consummating it?"

God's providence has not been confined to any century, nor to any continent, nor yet to any race, but back of all races and times has been the unifying purpose of God. The Hebrew prophets grasped this truth, and because filled with the intense conviction that to their own race was given the mission of revealing the true God they led their people on to truer conceptions of him and insisted upon living according to his will. It is not mere poetic sentiment but profound truth which we read in the song of Moses (Deut. 32: 8). "When the Most High gave to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the children of men, he set the

bounds of the people, according to the number of the children of Israel." A careful study of Israel's history will impress one with the fact that both the land and the people were in preparation for centuries for their mission in the world. Placed in a country possessing every variety of climate and scenery and fauna and flora, situated on the hills beside the highway between the two great ancient civilizations, Egypt and Babylon, Israel came into touch with all nature and all peoples and became fitted to give to the world the universal religion with its universal Book and universal Savior."

After this pleasing introduction the author takes into consideration the significant tendencies of the times, treating each one satisfactorily. We will mention the tendencies thus enlarged upon: The tendency toward increasing complexity in the relations of life; the tendency to specialization; the tendency toward co-operation: the tendency toward the supremacy of the spiritual.

Brother Yoder does not forget to discuss the dangers attending all these tendencies, but shows in a philosophical manner that these are transient and how they may be overcome. We cannot but quote from a thought developed under the second of the above heads:

"Christianity is not a department of life as agriculture or commerce is, but it is the sunshine all thru life. It is not the doing of certain things but a certain way of doing all things. It is not its mission directly to go into the business of education or amusements or reform or charity or medicine. Jesus founded no asylums and headed no political party. He gave new life to souls dead in sin. He lived the life of love and taught men to do likewise. And wherever his gospel has gone all forms of good institutions have sprung up, not because he builded them, but because he planted the seed of which these are the natural fruit."

We have gained such valuable information from the booklet and have derived such a blessing and inspiration from it that we can say in truth that "it has helped our faith in ourselves, in each other and in God more than many sermons." From beginning to end it is written in the spirit given expression to in this little verse which it contains:

"It may not be in the way we have dreamed  
The Lord will accomplish his will.  
The past with its faults may hold more than it seemed  
And time will the promise fulfill.

### Those Who Propose to Attend the Conference at Winona Lake

Should buy tickets reading via the Pennsylvania Lines, the direct route from the East and West to Winona Lake. For details as to rates, and time of trains, apply to nearest ticket agent, or address C. L. Kimball, Ass't. Gen'l. Pass. Agent, Cleveland, Ohio.